

many of America's greatest institutions, it was built by the worn hands of the very poor. Fifteen Spanish families, sent by the King of Spain to establish a mission in Texas, laid the cornerstone of the church in 1731. They called it "La Villa de San Fernando." Like most of us, they were immigrants, looking towards a new future, looking to build a new home. What they ultimately built was a nation. A nation of many people, of many backgrounds.

They united under the cathedral's roof. As a symbol of their unity, the congregation joined Old World and New World saints—Our Lady of Candlemas and Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe—as patrons in addition to the town's official patron, King Fernando III of Spain. San Fernando Cathedral is a place where all people still come together each week, by the thousands, to meet and pray. Like the generations before them, they also come to the cathedral to seek refuge from a world too often ravaged by hunger and violence, as soldiers did during the Battle of the Alamo.

I honor the San Fernando Cathedral today because I believe that, like the immigrants that built it, this building has an honored place in our history and most certainly has an honored place in our future.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
CORPORAL PATRICK NIXON

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Corporal Patrick Nixon, who gave the ultimate sacrifice to his country while serving in the United States Marine Corps. Patrick died in fighting near Nasiriyah, Iraq.

Patrick's parents, Debra and David Nixon, live in Gallatin, Tennessee, where I have the honor of representing them in this most esteemed body. My thoughts and prayers are with Debra and David and the rest of Patrick's family and friends. Full of hope and promise and sense of duty to his country, Patrick joined the Marine Corps after graduating high school in 2000.

Like his grandfather Joseph and his two brothers, Bill Hudson and Joe Nixon, before him, Patrick chose to serve his country by joining the Armed Forces. Patrick was a dedicated and courageous Marine. He understood the risks of serving in the military and did so with honor. This nation owes Patrick and all of the young men and women serving in our Armed Forces a huge debt of gratitude.

Our brave fighting men and women go in harm's way so the rest of us can enjoy the liberties of this great democracy. We should never take their service to this country for granted. Patrick was a young man who dreamed of teaching history one day. Our children will miss the opportunity to learn from such a courageous man.

I have deep admiration for Patrick, who has touched the lives of so many. His family, friends and community will never forget him and the sacrifice he made to protect the United States of America. God bless Patrick and all the men and women who sacrifice so much to protect this nation from harm.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP ACT OF 2003

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a critical and comprehensive initiative—the United States International Leadership Act of 2003—aimed at strengthening American leadership at the United Nations and at other international organizations.

Mr. Speaker, let me first express my sincere gratitude to the bill's cosponsor, the distinguished Chairman of the Rules Committee, and a dear friend from my home state of California, Congressman DAVID DREIER.

Many of the ideas for our bill came from a Council on Foreign Relations report that Chairman DREIER co-authored last year with our former International Relations Committee Chairman, Lee Hamilton.

The report, "Enhancing U.S. Leadership at the United Nations," focused attention on a critical problem in American foreign policy—our inability consistently to promote our interests and values in multilateral fora such as the UN. It also offered concrete steps to rebuild our influence.

The United States International Leadership Act builds on the Dreier-Hamilton report and is designed to give our diplomats the tools they need to ensure that America once again punches at its weight in the UN.

Specifically the bill:

Creates a Democracy Caucus at the UN to encourage other democracies to join us in promoting positions at the UN that support freedom and oppose tyranny and hatred.

Requires the State Department to pay high level visits each year to key countries to make sure that their leaders understand that support for our positions at the UN is critical to their overall relationship with us.

Directs the President to use U.S. influence to reform the criteria for leadership and membership at the UN bodies to ensure that rogue regimes and authoritarian governments cannot continue to thwart the noble purposes that each body was created to advance.

Provides increased training to our Foreign Service Officers to help them develop the skills they need to conduct effective diplomacy at the UN and other multilateral organizations.

Affords Foreign Service Officers—for the first time ever—an opportunity to advance their careers by undertaking assignments to represent the U.S. to the UN and to other multilateral institutions.

Creates a new Office on Multilateral Negotiations to be headed by a Special Representative with the rank of ambassador who has the responsibility to make sure that we have the resources and the strategies needed to prevail in each critical negotiation and decision we face at the UN and in other multilateral negotiations.

Mr. Speaker, it is an undeniable fact of life that our participation in the UN and other international organizations is critical to achieving our foreign policy goals. Right now the UN is helping us to advance our war against terrorism by obligating all countries to freeze the assets of terrorist groups. UN treaties and inspectors are also an important part of our ef-

fort to prevent the proliferation of chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons. UN agencies are also critical in spearheading the fight to combat the ravages of infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and now the terrifying new sickness, SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome).

Despite these and many other examples of critical benefits we obtain from our engagement at the UN, the U.S. has often been blocked in its attempts to take action in these institutions to advance its goals and objective. A recent example is the United Nations Human Rights Commission, where Libya—a gross human rights violator—was elected chairman, and the United States temporarily lost a seat. Another was the UN's World Conference Against Racism, where rogue regimes successfully hijacked a critical forum on race and turned it into an ugly anti-Israeli and anti-American circus.

A big part of the problem is that decisions at many international organizations, including membership and leadership, are made by regional groups where there is intensive cooperation by repressive regimes. The International Leadership Act, by building a Democracy Caucus and by developing expertise in the United States Government in the area of multilateral diplomacy, represents the beginning of what will be a long effort to rationalize and strengthen the UN, and other international organizations, by systematically reducing the leverage of repressive regimes and ensure that these organizations serve rather than thwart U.S. national interests.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere hope that this measure will be quickly enacted and signed by the President, so that we can begin this critical project.

HONORING MARINE CORPORAL
RANDAL ROSACKER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I stand before you today to honor a young man tragically taken from us while in the service of his country. Last Monday, Marine Corporal Randal Rosacker, a native of Alamosa, Colorado, was killed while serving in the conflict in Iraq. I am truly humbled to honor him before this body of Congress and this Nation. The sacrifice of Randy and his fellow Marines will be long remembered by our grateful Nation.

Randy was the oldest of three children and was known as a born leader. In High School, his teammates voted him captain of the baseball team. Randy had always wanted to become a marine and joined when he turned 18, despite scholarship offers to play college football. By doing so, Randy was upholding the finest military traditions of both his family and this Nation and I know Randy's family and friends take pride in the uniform he wore and the ideals for which he fought. Our Nation will long endure due to the strength and character of men and women like Randy who serve our country.

Each generation must renew its commitment to defend our liberties. Today in Iraq, a new generation of young Americans is fighting

bravely for freedom's cause. I know that those who seek the true meaning of duty, honor, and sacrifice will find it in dedicated servants like Marine Corporal Randal Rosacker.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot fully express my deep sense of gratitude for the sacrifice of this young Marine and his family. Throughout our history, men and women in uniform have fought our battles with distinction and courage. At the dawn of this new century, the United States military has once again been called to defend our freedom against a new and emerging threat. Marines like Randy embody America's determination to lead the world in confronting that threat, and Marine Corporal Rosacker's devotion to that cause will not be forgotten. Randy has done all Americans proud and I know he has the respect and admiration of all of my colleagues here today.

SMALLPOX, EMERGENCY PERSONNEL PROTECTION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2003

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4613.

It is imperative as we prepare our communities for biological and chemical warfare that we do all that we can to encourage health professionals to be vaccinated for smallpox and ensure that they are taken care of if they fall ill or die due to the vaccination. That is the least we can do for those who may be called upon to protect us at home.

I support a smallpox vaccination compensation policy—but it has to be done right the first time. The bill before us does not provide for adequate education, prescreening, and surveillance for nurses, first responders and other health care professionals who take the vaccine. For example, members of the armed services who received the smallpox vaccine were entitled to personalized education and free and confidential prescreening prior to the administration of the vaccine. This important process properly screened out one-third of the potential recipients. The recent deaths of vaccine recipients with heart disease only underscore the need for a strong education, prescreening, and surveillance effort—the CDC and government agencies need to be given the tools to track and eventually screen out individuals who are at risk.

As the husband of a nurse, I understand the commitment that health care professionals have to their patients and their communities. I know that most of them are eager to provide their expertise to help protect their neighbors should the unthinkable occur. It is unreasonable and unfair, however, to ask them to risk their lives and health, and that of their families, without guaranteeing that the federal government will take care of them in the event of an adverse event. Health care professionals are anxious about taking the vaccine—and for good cause. The smallpox vaccine has a long record of negative side effects to both vaccinated individuals and secondary contacts. It is absolutely essential those individuals who are vaccinated understand the risks of the vaccine and have confidence in their govern-

ment to care for them should they become ill or die—this is the least we can offer them.

H.R. 1463 includes an unacceptable lifetime cap on wage replacement and fails to ensure that funds will be available in the future for the compensation fund. It does not guarantee that states will have the money to implement the program or that compensation benefits will be paid—instead, this legislation forces these health care workers to fight for funds each year in the appropriations process. It is unfair and insulting to ask them to compete each year with other national spending priorities and our ever-growing national debt.

I support a substitute that would provide guaranteed funding to individuals injured by the smallpox vaccine. It would also implement a strong screening and follow-up regime, and includes language that will alert workers to the most likely side effects and speed up the qualification process. This proposal provides greater security, both psychological and financial, for health care workers and other first responders who are being asked to take this vaccine to help their communities.

It is a shame that the House leadership would not allow this substitute to be debated on the floor. I believe that bringing up such important legislation on the suspension calendar, which is ordinarily reserved for non-controversial legislation, is a thinly-veiled partisan ploy. This important issue deserves a robust debate. Nurses, first responders, and other health care professionals who volunteer to take the smallpox vaccine, at great risk to themselves and their families, deserve more than lip service and empty promises.

LESBIAN AND GAY IMMIGRATION RIGHTS TASK FORCE ANNUAL MEETING

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Lesbian and Gay Immigration Rights Task Force, which holds its Annual Meeting this weekend in Washington, DC. The LGIRTF advocates for the rights of HIV positive immigrants, persons seeking asylum because of sexual orientation, and bi-national couples.

The Lesbian and Gay Immigration Rights Task Force grew out of a small group of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund attorneys, who, in 1993, held a meeting at the New York City Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center. Over 50 persons attended and expressed interest in forming a group to address immigration issues affecting lesbians and gays.

In December 1994, the LGIRTF was incorporated in New York City. The LGIRTF began publishing *The Status Report* the following year. Implementation of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 in 1997 increased the need for Gay and Lesbian specific immigration services. By 1998 the LGIRTF ceased being an all-volunteer organization and in 1999 the LGIRTF hired its first attorney. The LGIRTF has grown from one chapter to an international organization with 19 chapters in the United States, including Washington, DC and Europe.

We, who live in our Nation's Capital and are taxed without representation, feel a special affinity to any other group that is denied the full rights and privileges, which most United States citizens enjoy. While any straight married couple may petition for permanent residence for a spouse and his or her children, Lesbians and Gays cannot petition for permanent residence for their life-partners.

I remind the House that we have the ability to correct these inequities: passage of the "No Taxation Without Representation Act" and the "Permanent Partners Immigration Act."

I ask this House to join with me in welcoming the members of the Lesbian and Gay Immigration Rights Task Force to Washington, DC.

SAN JACINTO, CA CELEBRATES 115 YEARS AS A CITY

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to congratulate the citizens and community leaders of the city of San Jacinto, CA, who on April 9, 2003 will celebrate 115 years of cityhood. I am happy to report, Mr. Speaker, that the friendly folks in San Jacinto have managed to preserve their past while preparing for a future as one of the fastest growing cities in California.

The San Jacinto Valley is in Riverside County, California, about 90 miles southeast of Los Angeles, in the shadow of 10,804-foot Mt. San Jacinto and the beautiful surrounding mountains. For thousands of years it has welcomed human habitation, including the ancestors of the Soboba Indians, whose reservation is adjacent to the current city of San Jacinto.

When Spanish explorers moved into California, they soon discovered the valley and by the 1770s it was a stop on Anza Trail, one of the oldest serving the Spanish colonies in California. The padres of the Spanish missions named the valley in honor of St. Hyacinth (San Jacinto in Spanish), one of the early Dominican apostles, and established an outpost there in 1820.

In 1842, Jose Antonio Estudillo received a land grant to the entire valley from the Mexican government. They built the Estudillo Mansion in downtown San Jacinto, which is today considered one of the most important historic structures in inland Southern California. In the 1860s, the Estudillo family began selling off portions of the rancho, and a small American community began to form. In 1868, local residents petitioned to form a school district, and by 1870 a store and post office had been established. In 1883, the San Jacinto Land Association laid out the modern city of San Jacinto at Five Points. The Santa Fe railroad arrived in 1888, and the city was incorporated that same year, making it the oldest incorporated community in Riverside County.

The community has primarily been an agricultural town for much of its history, and is still home to several large dairy operations. It has also worked closely with the neighboring city of Hemet to sponsor the famous Ramona Pageant, an outdoor play on early California history that is now in its 80th year. Most recently, the city has seen the beginnings of